

## REMARKS

Claims 77, 80, 84, 87-88, 105-106, 114-115, 128 and 133-134 are currently pending in this application.

Claims 30, 83 and 132 have been canceled, without prejudice, in order to advance the prosecution of this application. Applicants reserve the right to reassert these claims in continuing applications.

The objection to claims 105-106 has now been removed.

Claims 77, 80, 84, 87, 88, 105, 106, 114, 115, 128 and 133-134 have been objected to as a result of a discrepancy between the paper copy of the Sequence Listing and the recited amino acid position of each mutation.

The Examiner states that there are no corresponding amino acids for the claimed amino acid substitutions found in the SEQ ID NOs of the present specification, and the published sequences. Applicants have now compared the sequences, and believe there is no real discrepancy in the sequences since the present sequences are numbered based on the mature protein, while the published sequences are numbered based on the precursor protein. If the precursor protein is not counted, then the sequences are the same. Enclosed with this Amendment is a Declaration by coinventor Motomu Shimaoka, affirming that he has compared the sequence information, and for the reasons stated in this Amendment, he has found no discrepancy between the sequences, or the numbering systems used. Accordingly, applicants submit that this objection has now been removed.

Claim 83 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Huang et al. (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 94:3162-3167 (1997)), as evidenced by Lu et al. (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 98:2393-2398 (2002)) and the specification at page 76, lines 7-8 and page 77, Table 6. This ground of rejection is traversed.

Claim 83 has now been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, this ground of rejection is now moot.

Claims 30 and 132 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Huang et al. (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 94:3162-3167 (1997)) as evidenced by Lu et al. (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*

98:2393-2398 (2002)) and the specification at page 76, lines 7-8 and page 77, Table 6. This ground of rejection is traversed.

Claims 30 and 132 have now been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, this ground of rejection has been obviated.

In view of the aforementioned facts and reasons, the pending claims of this application are now believed to overcome any remaining rejections, and to satisfy all requirements for patentability. This Amendment is deemed appropriate at this time since it merely results in the cancellation of rejected claims, is responsive to the Examiner's requests, and does not require any new search or consideration on the part of the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal and reconsideration of the rejections, and allowance of the claims in this application, are solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if this would serve to advance the prosecution of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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